

VZCZCXRO0145

PP RUEHDBU RUEHIK RUEHPW RUEHYG
DE RUEHBUL #1340 1090634

ZNR UUUUU ZZH

P 190634Z APR 07

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7622

INFO RUCNAFG/AFGHANISTAN COLLECTIVE

RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 5029

RUEKJCS/OSD WASHINGTON DC

RUEKJCS/Joint STAFF WASHINGTON DC

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC

RHMFIUU/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL

RHEHAAA/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC

RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC

RUCPDOC/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC

RUEHPH/CDC ATLANTA GA

UNCLAS KABUL 001340

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR SCA/FO, SCA/RA, AND SCA/A

DEPT FOR G/JLANGE AND HSUMMERS

DEPT FOR OES

STATE PLEASE PASS TO AID/ANE/TS ACLEMENTS

NSC FOR AHARRIMAN

CENTCOM FOR CG CFC-A

OSD FOR BRZEZINSKI

E.O. 12958 N/A

TAGS: KFLU SOCI ECON CASC AF

SUBJECT: NEW H5N1 OUTBREAK IN KABUL

Ref: A. Kabul 827 B. Kabul 582

¶1. Three positive cases of Type A, H5N1 avian influenza in birds were found in the Karte Char and Karte Seh areas of Kabul City on April 17, 2007 and were confirmed by laboratory diagnosis at the Central Veterinary Diagnostic and Research Laboratories in Kabul. A total of eight birds were tested. Following confirmation of the diagnosis, the Ministry of Agriculture sent its teams to the area for culling in the index house and surrounding flocks. A team of emergency surveillance personnel from the Ministry of Public Health has been sent to the area for primary investigation and health education messages for the surrounding population. Follow up actions, testing and education will continue to determine the success of the containment efforts or further spread of the disease.

¶2. The major pattern of bird deaths and infections in Afghanistan appears to be primarily centered on the bird markets. The Ministry of Agriculture is making an effort to study the patterns of infection and transmission in greater detail and to provide incentives for commercial bird tradesmen to identify sick birds and seek assistance in their immediate culling and disposal.

¶3. Earlier this year, the H5N1 virus had broken out in several districts of Nangarhar, Kunar, and Kabul provinces, following infection from imported birds from Pakistan (reflets). The spread had been checked, and no new cases had been reported for several weeks. Following the pattern of infection from earlier this year and last year, further new outbreaks from the illegal importation of birds from Pakistan can be expected. As we did for the March outbreak, Embassy is preparing a warden message for the American community in Kabul and an administrative notice to the Embassy community.

WOOD